

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
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R 130828Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7352
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
DIA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJMENA 2287

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, CD
SUBJ: POLITICAL MANEUVERING REPLACES MILITARY

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING IS A COMPOSITE OF INFORMATION
OBTAINED IN LAST FEW DAYS FROM FRENCH AMBASSADOR,
ZAIRIAN AMBASSADOR, AND VARIOUS HIGH LEVEL CHADIAN
GOVERNMENT SOURCES. WHILE THE MILITARY SITUATION IN CHAD
REMAINS STABLE AND BASICALLY FAVORABLE TO CENTRAL
GOVERNMENT, INTENSE POLITICAL MANEUVERING IS GOING
ON WITHIN GOVERNMENT AND BETWEEN VARIOUS OTHER
COUNTRIES CONCERNED. FRENCH ARE IMPATIENT WITH
MALLOUM'S HESITATION IN REORGANIZING GOVERNMENT AND
INTEND TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON HIM. IN THIS
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CONNECTION, IMMEDIATE INCLUSION OF HISEN HABRE
APPEARS TO BE THEIR OBJECTIVE. AT SAME TIME,
NEGOTIATIONS FOR ANOTHER MEETING OF BENGHAZI
ACCORD SIGNERS ON JUNE 15 CONTINUE AND PRESIDENT
MALLOUM HAS INDICATED HIS INTENTION TO VISIT LAGOS
THIS WEEK TO BRIEF NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT.

1. FRENCH ARE IMPATIENT WITH MALLOUM'S PROCRASTINATION IN MAKING CHANGES IN HIS GOVERNMENT. THEY DO NOT INTEND TO USE THEIR MILITARY ASSISTANCE AS A LEVER AGAINST HIM, BUT HAVE INDICATED THAT THEIR TROOPS WILL NOT REMAIN INDEFINITELY, AND A POLITICAL DECISION IS IMPERATIVE. THEY ARE STILL BEEFING UP THEIR FORCES IN CHAD AND IN THIS CONNECTION HAVE ADDED TWO MORE JAGUARS TO THEIR FORCE IN NDJAMENA AND HAVE STATIONED A FRENCH GARRISON IN ATI. AFTER ITS DEFEATS AT ATI AND DJEDAA, FROLINAT IS EVIDENTLY SUFFERING SEVERE MORALE PROBLEMS. DEFECTIONS IN EASTERN CHAD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERABLE AND HAVE REACHED THE POINT THAT 12 DESERTERS WERE SHOT LAST WEEK BY FROLINAT. THIS HAS CAUSED GREAT OUTCRY IN ABEICHE AREA WHERE MEMORIAL FUNERAL SERVICES WERE HELD FOR DECEASED BY THEIR FAMILIES. FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAYS WHILE LIBYANS AND GOUKOUNI MAY TRY AND NEGOTIATE THEIR WAY OUT OF PRESENT SITUATION, THERE IS SOME CHANGE LIBYA WILL DECIDE TO UP ITS MILITARY SUPPORT (AIRPLANES?) RATHER THAN HAVE FROLINAT FACE FURTHER HUMILIATION.

2. WHILE AS NOTED ABOVE, FRENCH WILL NOT USE MILITARY AID TO PROD MALLOUM INTO MOVEMENT, THEY DO INTEND TO USE THEIR OFFER OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THIS END. FRENCH AMBASSADOR SAYS PARIS IS FED UP
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WITH LONG TALKS WITH HISSEN HABRE AND WANTS HIS INCLUSION IN THE GOVERNMENT IMMEDIATELY. IN THIS CONNECTION, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS GALMAI IS IN KHARTOUM AND IS TRYING TO ARRANGE FOR THE COORDINATING BODY REFERRED TO IN THE KHARTOUM AGREEMENT TO BE FORMALLY CONVOKED IN NDJAMENA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT THE INCLUSION OF HISSEN HABRE AND HIS FOLLOWERS IN GOVERNMENT. HOWEVER, BASIC PROBLEM REMAINS THAT HISSEN HABRE WILL NOT ENTER ANY GOVERNMENT WHICH INCLUDES FOREIGN MINISTER KAMOUGUE OR MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE ROASNGAR. MALLOUM IS AFRAID TO ACT AGAINST KAMOUGUE. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT DOES NOT APPEAR KAMOUGUE HAS SUFFICIENT POLITICAL BACKING TO MOUNT A SUCCESSFUL COUP, BUT MALLOUM IS APPARENTLY AFRAID HE MIGHT RESORT TO MORE DIRECT PERSONAL VIOLENCE.

3. AT THE SAME TIME FOREGOING IS TAKING PLACE, A NEW YOUNG OFFICER GROUP HAS EMERGED WITHIN THE ARMY. THIS GROUP IS DISILLUSIONED WITH SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL AND HAS DEMANDED A SEAT AT ANY

NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF CHAD. GROUP IS BASICALLY PRO-WESTERN AND IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH FRENCH MILITARY. CONTRARY TO EARLIER REPORTS, MINISTER GOUARA LASSOU HAS NO CONNECTION WITH THIS GROUP AND, IN FACT, AT THE MOMENT HE SEEMS TO BE POWERLESS.

4. FRENCH HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HISEN HABRE THROUGH HIS DEPUTY AND HAVE BEEN REASSURED THAT HISEN HABRE RECOGNIZES CHAD MUST HAVE FRENCH COOPERATION (MILITARY, TECHNICAL, FINANCIAL, AND INVESTMENT). DESPITE HIS REPUTATION AS A QUOTE MARXIST UNQUOTE, HISEN HABRE MAINTAINS HE OPPOSES COMMUNISM WHICH IS NON-AFRICAN IN NATURE AND ADVOCATES
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ONLY A MILD SENEGALESE FORM OF SOCIALISM. INCLUSION OF HISEN HABRE HAS REACHED A POINT THAT SOME OF HIS ARCH RIVALS IN GOVERNMENT ARE MAKING PLANS TO DEPART IN NEAR FUTURE.

5. FRENCH ENVISION IMMEDIATE INCLUSION OF HISEN HABRE IN ONE OF TOP SPOTS OF REORGANIZED GOVERNMENT AND STRONG SUPPORT OF THIS GOVERNMENT BY THE SULTANS OF OUADDAI AND KANEM. THIS WOULD GIVE GOVERNMENT A MORE NORTHERN, MOSLEM ASPECT AND WOULD ACT AS A BARRIER AGAINST TROUBLES IN THE NORTH. THEY DO NOT FORESEE GOUKOUNI JOINING SUCH A GOVERNMENT AND RECOGNIZE LIBYA WOULD PROBABLY CONTINUE SUPPORTING HIM IN SOME SORT OF A REBELLION IN THE NORTH.

6. RE-CONVOCAION OF MEETING BETWEEN CHAD, LIBYA, SUDAN, NIGER, AND REBELS IS STILL UP IN THE AIR. SUDANESE INVITATION FOR JUNE 15 HAS STILL NOT BEEN RECEIVED BY CHADIANS AND MALLOUM HAS INDICATED HE PREFERS ANY SUCH MEETING BE HELD SOMEWHERE ELSE RATHER THAN TRIPOLI.

7. POLICE ROUND-UP IN NDJAMENA DURING THE LAST TEN DAYS HAS NETTED 12 CAPTIVES WHO ARE PART OF A FROLINAT QUOTE TERRORIST UNQUOTE GROUP OPERATING OUT OF NIGERIA. FOUR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BAND REPORTEDLY ESCAPED. PRESIDENT MALLOUM HAS INDICATED HE WILL VISIT NIGERIA THIS WEEK, BOTH TO BRIEF NIGERIANS ON STATE OF CHAD'S NEGOTIATIONS AND TO ASK FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE IN STIFLING FROLINAT ACTIVITIES IN NORTHERN NIGERIA.

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8. COMMENT: NEXT FEW WEEKS SHOULD BRING FORTH THE GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION THAT HAS BEEN IN THE WIND FOR SO LONG. REORGANIZATION MAY BE ACCOMPANIED BY SOME CIVIL DISTURBANCES BUT THIS SHOULD BE MINIMAL IN TERMS OF VIOLENCE. IT APPEARS HISEN HABRE WILL BE IN NEW GOVERNMENT, AND KAMOUGUE, GOUARA LASSOU, AND ROASNGAR OUT OF IT. (KAMOUGUE MAY WELL END UP AMBASSADOR SOEWHERE.) CIVILIAN MINISTERS WILL PROBABLY BE PROMOTED TO POSITIONS OF MORE RESPONSIBILITY. NEW GOVERNMENT WILL IN NO WAY PLEASE FROLINAT, BRADFORD

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